

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 155

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 1996

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning human and political rights and in support of
a resolution of the crisis in Kosova.

Whereas the Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, adopted in 1946 and the amended Yugoslav Constitution adopted in 1974, described the status of Kosova as one of the 8 constituent territorial units of the Yugoslav Federation;

Whereas the political rights of the Albanian majority in Kosova were curtailed when the Government of Yugo-

slavia illegally amended the Yugoslav federal constitution without the consent of the people of Kosova on March 23, 1989, revoking Kosova's autonomous status;

Whereas in 1990, the Parliament and Government of Kosova were abolished by further unlawful amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia;

Whereas in September 1990, a referendum on the question of independence for Kosova was held in which 87 percent of those eligible to participate voted and 99 percent of those voting supported independence for Kosova;

Whereas in May 1992, a Kosovar national parliament and President, Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, were freely and fairly elected, but were not permitted to assemble in Kosova;

Whereas according to the State Department Country Reports on Human Rights for 1995, "police repression continued at a high level against the ethnic Albanians of Kosova . . . and reflected a general campaign to keep [those] who are not ethnic Serbs intimidated and unable to exercise basic human and civil rights";

Whereas over 100,000 ethnic Albanians employed in the public sector have been removed from their jobs and replaced by Serbs since 1989;

Whereas the government in Belgrade has severely restricted the access of ethnic Albanians in Kosova to all levels of education, especially in the Albanian language;

Whereas the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe observers dispatched to Kosova in 1991 were expelled by the government in Belgrade in July 1993, and have not been reinstated as called for in United Nations Security Council Resolution 855 of August 1993;

Whereas following the departure of such observers, international human rights organizations have documented an increase in abuses;

Whereas the United Nations announced on February 27, 1995, that Serbia had granted it permission to open a Belgrade office to monitor human rights in Serbia and Kosova;

Whereas Congress directed the State Department to establish a United States Information Agency (U.S.I.A.) cultural center in Prishtina, Kosova, in section 223 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1992 and 1993;

Whereas Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced on February 27, 1996, that Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic has agreed to the establishment of such center and that preparations for the establishment of the center are proceeding;

Whereas, with the signing of the Dayton agreement on Bosnia, future peace in the Balkans hinges largely on a settlement of the status of Kosova; and

Whereas the President has explicitly warned the Government of Serbia that the United States is prepared to respond in the event of escalated conflict in Kosova caused by Serbia: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—
- 3 (1) the situation in Kosova must be resolved be-
- 4 fore the outer wall of sanctions against Serbia is lift-
- 5 ed and Serbia is able to return to the international
- 6 community;

1 (2) the human rights of the people of Kosova
2 must be restored to levels guaranteed by inter-
3 national law;

4 (3) the United States should support the legiti-
5 mate claims of the people of Kosova to determine
6 their own political future;

7 (4) international observers should be returned
8 to Kosova as soon as possible;

9 (5) the elected government of Kosova should be
10 permitted to meet and exercise its legitimate man-
11 date as elected representatives of the people of
12 Kosova;

13 (6) all individuals whose employment was termi-
14 nated on the basis of their ethnicity should be rein-
15 stated to their previous positions;

16 (7) the education system in Kosova should be
17 reopened to all residents of Kosova regardless of eth-
18 nicity and the majority ethnic Albanian population
19 should be allowed to educate its youth in its native
20 tongue;

1 (8) the establishment of a United States Infor-
2 mation Agency cultural center in Prishtina, Kosova,
3 is to be commended; and

4 (9) the President should appoint a special envoy
5 to aid in negotiating a resolution to the crisis in
6 Kosova.

Passed the House of Representatives July 29, 1996.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.